

1 surface coating, and in fact, utilizes release agents in his ink composition and/or on the
2 surface of an object to be imprinted to assure that the disclosed ink does not adhere so tightly
3 to an object surface as to enable the dried ink film to remain adhered to the object surface.
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5 Method Claims 1-10 have been canceled and replaced by new independent
6 method Claim 44, and new method Claims 45-68 which depend from Claim 44. New
7 independent Claim 44 recites all of the limitations of Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5, as filed, in
8 combination with additional limitations which, it is submitted, describe a method which is
9 clearly novel and non-obvious over JP 60-26039A, Lopez (U.S. 4,129,669), and all of the
10 other prior art of record, considered either separately or in any combination. In particular,
11 subparagraph b. of new independent Claim 44 adds to the described method the limitation:
12 "said applied ink extending beyond said open areas (indicia shaped openings through stencil
13 sheet) onto adjacent areas of said stencil sheet to form a continuous layer having an outer
14 surface which overlies said openings and adjacent areas of said stencil sheet, and an inner
15 surface which contacts said object surface."

16 Figure 3 of the present application clearly shows application of ink to form a
17 relatively thick layer 18 as recited in new Claim 44. This step of the claimed method is a
18 drastic departure from Lopez and the teachings of all prior stencil art, in which ink is only
19 required to be applied to perforations or openings through a stencil plate or sheet in the shape
20 of the desired indicia, and at the most extend slightly beyond the periphery of each opening.
21 The prior stenciling art teaches the use of special stencil brushes which are designed to add
22 very small amounts of paint, or add the paint sparingly in a very thin coating so that the
23 stenciling ink or paint does not leak under stencil openings. The prior art, therefore, teaches
24 away from using too much paint as a precaution against stencil leakage. Thus, prior art
25 stenciling methods result in the formation of thin, fragile films which are contained essentially
26 within stencil openings and which could not peel off in one piece. Also, subparagraph e. of
27 new independent method Claim 44 adds the limitation: "peeling said stencil sheet and said
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1 solid film *en masse* from said object surface, thereby exposing said object surface bearing
2 said indicia marking imprinted on and dye-penetrated into said object surface.”
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4 As shown in Figure 4 of the present application, according to the method of the
5 present invention, a stencil sheet 10 which has on an upper or obverse surface thereof a
6 relatively thick, continuous layer of dried ink 18 and dried solid film 12 remnants 20 projecting
7 through perforations 12 of the stencil sheet are peeled *en masse* from an object surface. This
8 procedure is neither disclosed nor remotely hinted at by any of the prior art of record.

9 Regarding specifically the rejection of Claims 1 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
10 as being anticipated by JP 60-26039A, it is submitted that the foregoing rejection is not
11 applicable to new independent method Claim 44, since JP 60-26039A neither discloses,
12 claims, or suggests a method for imprinting indicia onto a surface of an object which uses a
13 stencil sheet, does not disclose or suggest forming a continuous layer of ink which overlies
14 the stencil sheet, and does not disclose or suggest peeling a stencil sheet and solid film *en*
15 *masse* from an object surface.

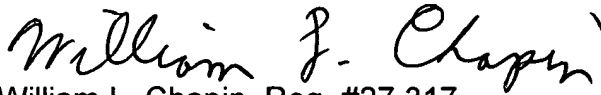
Regarding the rejection of Claims 2 and 3 under
16 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over 60-26039A, as applied to Claim 1 above, and
17 further in view of Lopez (U.S. 4,129,669), it is submitted that the foregoing rejection is not
18 applicable to new independent method Claim 44, for the following reasons. Lopez does not
19 disclose or suggest applying ink to a stencil sheet to form a continuous layer of ink which dries
20 to form a solid film peelable *en masse* with a stencil sheet from an object surface. Nothing
21 in Lopez or any of the other prior art of record discloses, suggests, or even remotely hints at
22 forming a continuous layer of stencil ink which overlies both perforated and non-perforated
23 regions of a stencil sheet or stencil plate to form a unitarily peelable solidified film.

24 Regarding JP 60-26039A, that reference neither discloses nor remotely suggests
25 applying a peelable paint coating through openings of a stencil plate onto an object surface.
26 There is no disclosure or suggestion in the 039 reference of applying the disclosed
27 releasable/strippable paint coating through the opening of a stencil plate or stencil sheet.
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1 Page 3 of the '039 reference discloses a multi-color dying method in which a coating of the
2 disclosed releasable/strippable paint itself becomes a mask to prevent dye from an immersion
3 bath from coloring the surface covered by the releasable/strippable coating, but this
4 procedure has no relationship to the present invention.

5 In view of the remarks above, it is submitted that the 43 new Claims 44-86 describe
6 an advantageous method which is novel and non-obvious over all of the prior art of record.
7 Accordingly, early formal notice of allowance of the foregoing claims is earnestly solicited.
8 A check in the amount of \$297.00 in payment of (43-10) = 33 total additional claims is
9 enclosed. Also, for the reasons stated in above, traversing the restriction requirement, it is
10 requested that Claims 11-43 be promptly examined.

11 Respectfully submitted,

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